



Committee: Joint PS/HHS
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #3B
July 21, 2026
Introduction

SUBJECT

Bill 34-26, Health and Sanitation – Bodywork Establishments – Amendments

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Luedtke

Co-Sponsors: Council President Fani-González and Councilmembers Stewart and Katz

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Bill 34-26 would:

- (1) prohibit the issuance of a bodyworks establishment license when the establishment has as a corporate officer or business manager an individual who has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or served any term of probation as a result of being charged with certain crimes or who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodyworks establishment the license of which was revoked;
- (2) define certain terms related to bodyworks establishment;
- (3) require bodyworks establishments to identify all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding bodywork establishments.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

This report contains:

Staff Report

Bill 34-26

Lead Sponsor's Letter to Colleagues

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MEMORANDUM

July 16, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 34-26, Health and Sanitation – Bodywork Establishments – Amendments

PURPOSE: Introduction – no Council votes required

Bill 34-26, Health and Sanitation – Bodywork Establishments – Amendments, is scheduled for introduction on July 21, 2026. Its Lead Sponsor is Councilmember Luedtke. Its Co-Sponsors are Council President Fani-González and Councilmembers Stewart and Katz. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Bill 34-26 would:

- (1) prohibit the issuance of a bodyworks establishment license when the establishment has as a corporate officer or business manager an individual who has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or served any term of probation as a result of being charged with certain crimes or who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodyworks establishment the license of which was revoked;
- (2) define certain terms related to bodyworks establishment;
- (3) require bodyworks establishments to identify all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding bodywork establishments.

Background

In 2015, the Council first regulated bodywork establishments, including the issuance of licenses by the Department of Health and Human Services and enforcement by the Police Department. That regulatory scheme was implemented because bodywork establishments had emerged as a front for human trafficking. Under current law, however, an individual associated with a bodywork establishment that violates State or County law faces little impediment to opening a new bodywork establishment within the County.

Bill Specifics

Bill 34-26 seeks to prevent individuals who were affiliated in certain ways with a bodywork establishment that was the target of enforcement efforts under existing County law from opening and operating a different bodywork establishment elsewhere in the County. The bill defines the term corporate officer or business manager, which is the level of ownership or employment within a bodywork establishment necessary to trigger certain reporting requirements under the law. It requires bodywork establishment licensees to provide a list of all individuals meeting that definition within the corporate entity. The bill also prohibits the issuance of a license to an establishment where a corporate officer or business manager is currently pending adjudication or has been found to have violated certain state laws or where the corporate officer or business manager was a corporate officer or business manager of a bodywork establishment that had its license revoked by the County.

This packet contains:

Bill 34-26

Lead Sponsor's Letter to Colleagues

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Bill No. 34-26
Concerning: Health and Sanitation –
Bodywork Establishments –
Amendments
Revised: 7/15/2026 Draft No. 1
Introduced: July 21, 2026
Expiration: December 7, 2026
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Luedtke
Co-Sponsors: Council President Fani-González and Councilmembers Stewart and Katz

AN ACT to:

- (1) prohibit the issuance of a bodyworks establishment license when the establishment has as a corporate officer or business manager an individual who has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or served any term of probation as a result of being charged with certain crimes or who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodyworks establishment the license of which was revoked;
- (2) define certain terms related to bodyworks establishment;
- (3) require bodyworks establishments to identify all individuals serving as a corporate officer or business manager of the establishment; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding bodywork establishments.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Section 24-8B

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Section 24-8B is amended as follows:

Sec. 24-8B. Bodywork Establishments.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this Section, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

* * *

Corporate officer or business manager means any individual holding a senior level position within a bodywork establishment by virtue of an equity ownership stake, corporate structure leadership, or operational management such that the individual has or can reasonably be expected to have control or knowledge of the establishment's operations.
Corporate officer or business manager includes any owner, shareholder, member, partner, director, or general manager, regardless of official or formal title within the organization.

* * *

(c) Bodywork establishment.

* * *

(10) The Director must not issue a bodywork establishment license to any establishment that has a corporate officer or business manager:

(A) who previously served as a corporate officer or business manager of a bodywork establishment if the license of the establishment was revoked under this Section; or

(B) who is currently pending adjudication, has been found by a relevant adjudicatory body to have been in violation of, has been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, had a charge disposed of under Maryland Rule 4-248, or served any term of

probation as a result of being charged with a crime
under Title 3, Subtitles 3, 11, and 12, or Title 11,
Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article or a violation
of § 6-401(e) or § 6-501(b) of the Health Occupations
Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

(d) *Bodywork establishment licensee.*

(1) The licensee, if an individual, or an owner's representative
designated under subsection (c)(1), must

* * *

(E) provide a passport-size photograph, fingerprints, and a list
of the individual's occupation or employment for the 3 years
before filing the application; [and]

(F) if the applicant is not a United States citizen, provide
evidence of legal presence and employability in the United
States[.]; and

(G) submit at the time of application and supplement, as
necessary to maintain accuracy, a comprehensive list of the
names of all individuals serving as a corporate officer or
business manager of the establishment.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

MEMORANDUM

July 13, 2026

From: Councilmember Dawn Luedtke 
To: All Councilmembers
Subject: Introduction of Bill XX-26, *Health and Sanitation - Bodyworks Amendments*

Dear Colleagues,

Human trafficking is a pervasive crime that often operates behind the façade of legitimate businesses, including illicit massage and bodyworks establishments. Over the last several years, Montgomery County has strengthened oversight of these businesses through regional collaboration and proactive enforcement. A troubling gap remains in which individuals associated with bodyworks establishments that have engaged in human trafficking or related criminal activity are still able to open new establishments under different business entities or LLCs, allowing the cycle of exploitation to continue.

On July 21, I will introduce Bill XX-26, *Health and Sanitation - Bodyworks Amendments* to close that loophole. The bill requires applicants for bodyworks establishment licenses to disclose all individuals serving as corporate officers or business managers to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It also prohibits HHS from issuing a bodyworks establishment license to an applicant whose corporate officers or business managers have previously been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or otherwise been found responsible for specified human trafficking- and prostitution-related offenses, or previously managed or owned a bodyworks establishment whose license was revoked. We developed this proposal in consultation with the Montgomery County Police Department and subject matter experts serving on the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission. HHS's Licensure and Regulatory Services has confirmed its ability to administer these requirements.

By ensuring individuals with a history of exploiting bodyworks practitioners and establishments cannot simply reorganize under a new business entity and obtain another license, this legislation protects consumers and legitimate businesses. *Health and Sanitation - Bodyworks Amendments* also underscores our County's commitment to combatting trafficking in all of its insidious forms. Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to support as a co-sponsor.

Cc: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney